

## Preparation of Competitive Grant Proposals

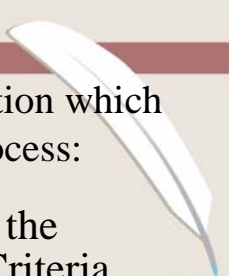
- Guidelines on Awarding CWA Section 319 Grants to Indian Tribes
  - Regional Threshold Evaluation Criteria (7)
  - Proposal Evaluation Review Sheet (9 Factors)
- Your Tribe's EPA-approved NPS Assessment Report and Management Program
  - Identify the NPS and water quality problem(s) to address
  - Select recommended BMPs from the NPS Management Program

## Eligible Project Activities




- Watershed projects
  - On-the-ground water quality improvement projects (BMP implementation)
  - Beneficial to waters impaired by NPS pollution
  - Expected to achieve actual water quality benefits
- Development of watershed based plans (maximum of 20% of total budget costs)

Proposals must include detailed information which fully address the 2-Step Review Process:



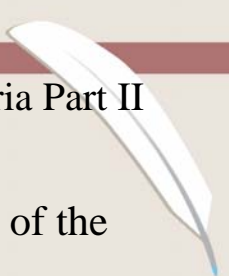
- (1) The proposals must comply with the Regional Threshold Evaluation Criteria before being forwarded on to national competition.
- (2) The proposals are evaluated by the EPA Watershed Project Review Committee using all nine evaluation factors.



## Regional Threshold Evaluation Criteria Part I

Essential Workplan Elements

- a. Applying for one competitive grant
- b. Applying up to a maximum budget of \$150,000 of Federal funds and provides the required match of the total project cost
- c. Propose to fund activities related to waters within the reservation




## Regional Threshold Evaluation Criteria Part II

Essential Workplan Elements

- d. All work plans must address one of the following four factors:
  - i. The work plan develops a watershed-based plan and implements a watershed-based plan;
  - ii. The work plan develops a watershed-based plan and implements a watershed project (that does not implement a watershed-based plan);
  - iii. The work plan implements a watershed-based plan; or
  - iv. The work plan implements a watershed project that is a significant step towards solving NPS impairments or threats on a watershed-wide basis.

## Regional Threshold Evaluation Criteria Part III


### Essential Workplan Elements



- e. All work plans must include:
  - i. Description of each significant category of NPS activity to be addressed;
  - ii. Work plan components;
  - iii. Work plan commitments for each work plan components (including anticipated environmental outcomes and outputs);
  - iv. Estimated funding amounts for each work plan component;
  - v. Estimated work years for each work plan component;
  - vi. Roles and responsibilities of recipient and EPA in carrying out the work plan commitments
  - vii. Reporting schedule and a description of the performance evaluation process
  - viii. Description of past performance on reporting environmental results, including a description of Federally funded assistance agreements performed within the last 3 years and how progress towards achieving expected results under those agreements were documented and/or reported.

## Regional Threshold Evaluation Criteria Part IV

### Essential Workplan Elements



- f. Proposal must comply with submission requirements:
  - a. Complete narrative workplan
  - b. Signed SF-424
  - c. If applicable, documentation of a finding from the Region that the watershed-based plan to be implemented includes the nine components identified in Attachment A of the guidelines.
- g. Proposal submitted in hard copy only and received by EPA Regional Tribal NPS Coordinator (Region 9: Tiffany Eastman) or received through grants.gov on or before the submission closing date and time published in the guidelines.

## Ranking Committee Evaluation Review Sheet

Evaluation Factors	Weight	Score
<i>Rank with score of 0 to 5. (Weight x Value = Score) Maximum score 825.</i>		
The extent, and quality, to which the subcategories of NPS pollution are identified and described.	15	
The extent, and quality, to which the water quality problems or threats to be addressed are identified and described.	15	
The extent, and quality, to which the goals and objectives of the project specifically identify the project location and activities to be implemented.	20	
The extent to which significant water quality benefits will be achieved as a result of the project.	20	
The specificity of the budget in relation to each work plan component.	15	
The level of detail in relation to the schedule for achieving the activities in the work plan.	15	
The extent to which the roles and responsibilities of the recipient and project partners in carrying out the work plan activities are specifically identified.	15	
The extent to which the performance evaluation process meets each of the following sub-criteria: (i) Extent and quality to which the work plan demonstrates potential environmental results, anticipated outputs and outcomes, and how the outcomes are linked to EPA's Strategic plan; (ii) the work plan demonstrates a sound plan for measuring progress; and (iii) the applicant adequately documented or reported on progress towards achieving the expected results within last 3 years...	15	
The extent, and quality, to which the proposal addresses one of the four factors regarding the watershed-based plan and watershed project implementation.	35	

### Evaluation Factor #1

- The extent, and quality, to which the subcategories of NPS pollution are identified and described.
  - Identifies NPS sources at the subcategory level with estimates of the extent to which these subcategories are present in the watershed.
  - Example: # of linear miles of eroded streambank needing remediation; # of acres of Tamarisk to be removed and land revegetated; # of feet of fencing to prevent livestock access to polluted waterbody.

## Evaluation Factor #2



- The extent, and quality, to which the water quality problems or threats to be addressed are identified and described.
  - Example: Specifically describes the water quality problems or threats in relation to impairments to water quality standards or other parameters that indicate stream health (decreases in fish or macroinvertebrate counts).
  - Provide water quality data and information from the CWA 106 monitoring program that shows the water quality parameter to be addressed.

## Evaluation Factor #3



- The extent, and quality, to which the goals and objectives of the project specifically identify the project location and activities to be implemented.
  - Specifically identifies where the NPS project will take place and the waterbody affected by the NPS pollutants (provides good, clear map).
  - Provides details on the specific activities that will be implemented (identifies specific, detailed information on BMPs to be implemented).


## Evaluation Factor #4

- The extent to which significant water quality benefits will be achieved as a result of the project.
  - Incorporate specific water quality-based goals that are linked to: water quality standards for one or more pollutants/uses; measurable, in-stream reductions in a pollutant; or improvements in a parameter that indicates stream health (e.g., increases in fish or macroinvertebrate counts).
  - If information is not available to make specific estimates, water quality-based goals may include narrative descriptions and best professional judgment based on existing information.
  - Build upon information provided for Evaluation Factor #2 on what the expected water quality improvement will be for the water quality parameter to be addressed (provide data estimates).

## Evaluation Factor #5

- The specificity of the budget in relation to each work plan component.
  - Provides budget breakdown for each work plan component.
  - Outlines total operational and construction costs of the project (including match funds).
  - Budget categories may include, but not limited to: personnel; travel; equipment; supplies; contractual; construction costs; and other.

## Evaluation Factor #6



- The level of detail in relation to the schedule for achieving the activities identified in the work plan.
  - Provides schedule of activities for each work plan component.
  - Identifies a specific “start” and “end” date for each work plan component.
  - Identifies an estimate of the specific work years for each staff person for each work plan component.
  - Identifies the interim milestone dates for achieving each work plan component.
  - Indicates “readiness to proceed.”

## Evaluation Factor #7



- The extent to which the roles and responsibilities of the recipient and project partners in carrying out the work plan activities are specifically identified.
  - Clearly defines the roles and responsibilities of each responsible party for each work plan component.
  - Defines specific level of effort for responsible parties for each work plan component.
  - Identifies parties who will take the lead in carrying out the work plan commitments.
  - Identifies other programs, parties, and agencies that will provide additional technical and/or financial assistance.

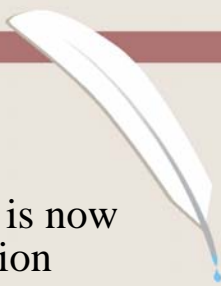


## Evaluation Factor #8

- The extent to which the performance evaluation process meets each sub-criteria:
  - a. Demonstrates environmental results, anticipated outputs and outcomes, and how outcomes are linked to EPA's Strategic Plan.
  - b. Demonstrates a sound plan for measuring progress towards achieving expected outcomes and outputs.
  - c. Documentation of progress towards achieving expected results under Federal agency assistance agreements within last 3 years.

## Evaluation Factor #9

- The extent, and quality, to which the proposal addresses one of the following four factors:
  - (1) The work plan develops a watershed-based plan and implements a watershed-based plan.
  - (2) The work plan develops a watershed-based plan and implements a watershed project (that does not implement a watershed-based plan).
  - (3) The work plan implements a watershed-based plan.
  - (4) The work plan implements a watershed project that is a significant step towards solving NPS impairments or threats on a watershed-wide basis.

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- Your competitive project proposal is now ready to be submitted for competition
  - Tribes submit final competitive grant proposals to Regional Tribal NPS Coordinator or [grants.gov](http://grants.gov) by December 7, 2007.